

Severall

# LETTERS

TO

THE HONOURABLE

*William Lenthall*, Esquire,

Speaker of the House of Commons;

And to the Committee of both Kingdoms,  
concerning the State of *Sir Tho. Fairfax* Army.

Shewing the obedience of the Souldiers, which were  
Mutiniers to the Commands of the Parliament,  
and their readinesse to serve the State,  
under the Command of *Sir*  
*Thomas Fairfax*.

Together with

Sergeant-Major-Generall *Skippons* SPEECH, to all  
the Officers and Souldiers, and their  
concurrence thereunto.

With a Letter of Serjeant-Major *Skippons*, shewing  
the readinesse of the Souldiers, to go on in this expedition.

Ordered by the Commons Assembled in Parliament, that  
these Letters be forthwith Printed and Published.

*H: Elfyng, Cler. Parl. D. Com.*

London, Printed for *Edward Husbands*. 1645.

THE



To the Right Worshipfull, Sir John Evelyn, Sir  
Henry Vane, junior; Master Solicitor, or either  
of them.

Honoured Sir,

VV E being desired to further the service of the  
State; And having seen very much of  
Gods over-ruling-Providence upon the  
Spirits both of Commanders, and  
Souldiers, in our entrance upon that great  
work at *Reading*, where our presence and assistance was de-  
sired by the Major Generall; who on Friday night, so  
soon as ever we came into the Garrison, gave order to draw  
out the five Regiments, formerly under the Command of  
his Excellencie, the Earl of *Essex*, and five Companies of  
my Lord *Roberts*, into the field on the next morning: We  
thought it our duty to acquaint you with the proceedings  
at that meeting. The Regiments and Companies aforesaid,  
being drawn up according to Order; The Major Generall  
marched in the head of all the Regiments, being accompa-  
nied with us, and the Commissioners in the Army, who  
were received with a generall shout and acclamation of the  
souldiers: The complement of the field being over, each  
Regiment was drawn apart; And then the Major-Generall  
applied himself, First, to his Excellencies regiment. & there  
commanded all the Officers to draw together to the head  
of the Regiment, and there exprest himself with much gra-  
vity, and sweetnesse of spirit, to the Officers and Souldiers  
of that Regiment, to this effect: (I think we may say *ver-  
batim*) as is expressed in the inclosed: The like to all the  
rest with some little variations: Upon the close of his  
Speech to each Regiment, both the Officers to be conti-

nued, and those that were to be dismissed, did witness much readinesse to obey the Commands of Parliament; and likewise very much civility to the Major-Generall: And the Souldiers they generally exprest their joy at the close of every Speech, without any reluctancie in any of them; declaring, that now they hoped (ere long) they should be in action. And farther, Whereas divers Inferiour Officers went off upon the Reducement, they have listed themselves as common Souldiers: So that we trust, you will have such an account of this businesse, as that you could not desire a better. The inhabitants of this Garrison, who have been witnesses of their former mutinous dispositions, do very much wonder at so great a change in the same; and truly, the mighty hand of God was very visible in the work. We are sorry that we have troubled you with so long a Scible, the rather because we have an intimation, that the Commissioners here have written to Master *Speaker*, touching these Affairs: however, lest they should omit what to our apprehensions was most remarkable, we have taken the boldnesse to give you this trouble: From,

*Reading*, this 6.  
of *April*. 1645.

Sir,

Your most humble Servants,

*Francis Allein.*

*John Dethick.*

*The*

(3)

*The inclosed Speech of Serjeant-Major-  
Generall Skippon.*

*Gentlemen, and fellow Souldiers all,*

I am now to acquaint you with the Commands of Parliament; to which in conscience to God, and love to our Country, we are bound to give all ready and cheertull obedience. There is a necessity lies upon us (since three Armies are to be reduced into one) that some Commanders and Officers must go out of their Employments, wherein they now are. It is not out of any personall dis-respect to any of you that shall now go off; Therefore I hope you will behave your selves accordingly. I have received Order from the House of Commons, to take notice what the comportment shall be of those who must now go off; and to certifie it unto them. I know you will behave your selves like men of Honour and honesty (as indeed you are) and that I shall have no cause, but to make a good report of you; which I shall do, according to your carriage in this Reducement, both to the Speaker of the Honourable House of Commons, and to the Committee of both Kingdoms, and that particular Committee which are appointed to take you into consideration, and to take in your Accompts, and pay you part of your Arreares at present, and for the rest, you are to have a Debenter upon the Publique-Faith of the Kingdom. But if there shall be any among you, who out of any personall respect, or private discontent, shall make any disturbance in this Reducement; so as to obstruct or hinder a work of so Publique concernment; I shall not fail to give him his true Character to the State, without personall respect to any. And therefore let no man deceive himself; for although he may perhaps occasion some trouble in the present businesse, yet in the Issue, the greatest mischief will fall upon himself: But I hope I shall finde none such here. There is (at present) a fortnights pay to be paid to such Officers as shall go off; which they shall presently have upon their Muster: And as for the Officers, and Souldiers that are continued, (as soon as they shall be Mustered and Lifted) they also shall have a fortnights pay; and there are Clothes come down for the Souldiers already in part; and I assure you, That upon my Life and Honour, there are more providing, and you shall be all furnished with Coats, Breeches, Shirts, Stockins, Shooes, and such Armes as you shall stand in need of; with all good usage and constant pay. And that

that as I have been with you hitherto, so upon all occasions of service to my God and Country, I shall by the help of God, be willing to live, and dye with you.

*To the Honourable William Lenthall Esquire, Speaker of the Commons House of Parliament, Assembled at Westminster.*

*Right Worthily Honoured Sir,*

**Y**esterday by Gods speciall blessing upon my poor endeavours, the work of Reducement here, is quietly, and (I hope, throughly settled, both Officers and Souldiers demeaning themselves with all ready obedience to the Commands of Parliament. As soon as I can get an exact list of the officers that are gone off, I shal (God willing) with all humbleness, send the same to this Honourable House; that (as shall seem best unto you) they may be taken into your further consideration. I intend (by Gods assistance) to prosecute this business of Reducing the rest in other places, with all possible diligence and faithfulness; hoping by Gods further favour, in a short time to bring the same to a wished Issue; whereof I shall (by Gods help) from time to time give you a true accompt. Onely I most humbly beseech you, that Cloathes and Armes may be suddenly sent to *Windsor*, for their further supply and encouragement: as also for the speedier fitting them for the publique service, the advancement whereof we heartily long after; and I hope in the strength of the Almighty shall with the uttermost hazard of our lives endeavour: may it please you (if it be not done already) to take some speedy, and certain course for money to pay those Horse that were of His Excellencies and Sir *William Balfores* Regiments, equall with the rest of the Horse that were of His Excellencies Army, that the Reducing of them may not be hindered or prejudiced. Mr. *Allein*, and Mr. *Detrick*, now the present Treasurers of the Army here; as also the Commissioners appointed by Parliament, have with all love, care and industry, furthered this great work: which let it please you to take notice of, being a very good and seasonable service to the State. I humbly crave pardon for my great boldness, and ever remain,

Reading, the 6. of Aprill,  
1645. 11. at Night.

Honoured Sir, Your Obligated Faith-  
full Servant, Ph. Skippon.



To the Honourable, William Lenthall, Esquire,  
Speaker to the House of Commons.

Honourable Sir,

HAVING lately prest upon the distemperatures of this Garrison (occasioned principally from the tottering condition of such Officers as were to be reduced, whence undoubtedly grew their discontents, and by whose influence, the Mutinies of the Souldier took rise, as appeared to us from more then common observation, which according to our duty (though to our hazard) we have both laboured to suppress, to qualifie at least, and to present you the Intelligence:) We proceed to acquaint you; That upon the happy coming down of Serjeant Major Generall *Skippon*, the work we so long so earnestly desired, and so much feared, was yesterday by the great blessing of God happily accomplished. Upon Friday, towards night, Major-Generall was welcomed here, with acclamations of joy, serving as a good Omen, and encouragement, to the next dayes businesse. That night the Officers coming to welcome him, received much satisfaction, by understanding from him the providentiall care the Parliament had of them, by ordering a Committee to receive the Major-Generalls Character, touching the merit, or demerit, of such as were designed to be laid aside, till some other opportunity for imployment; as also, to order the auditing their Debenters, promoting some part of their Arrears, and promising Publique Faith for the rest. This not only calmed them for that night, brought them in due time next day to observe their Orders for drawing the five Regiments into the Forebury, but won them (after his publique signification in the head of every Regiment, touching the Parliaments respects to the reduc'd Officers, as also their extraordinary provisions of Pay and Apparell for the Private Souldiers, who had liberty offered to chuse their Commanders,

manders, after the four standing Captains of his Excellencies Regiment were recruited) to deliver up their men to such as stood, in such a method, and with such discretion and obedience to your Commands, that not a dissenting souldier, nor discontented countenance, could well be discovered; so as they orderly marcht thence in three reduc'd Regiments, cheerfully into three Churches, where we forthwith inrolled every Officer and souldier, as they entered the new List, closed the Books that evening, and with like diligence see the Private Souldier paid, and most of the reduc'd Officers. In this action (though the work speak it, yet) cannot we passe by the Major-Generals great pains, and excellent way of invitation, without a deserved Emphasis, and Commemoration. To morrow (by Gods assistance) we shall finish the rest: That done, proceed to the Reducement elsewhere, and what other Rules the Major-Generall shall give us to walk by. Neverthelesse, clothing, and compleat arming, requires speedy accomplishment, the season inviting, and Major-Generall having by promise engaged himself to them, unto that purpose. In these Affairs (if with modesty we may speak it) we have exprest what might with advantage conduce to make the work prosperous, and go on with such alacrity, and caution, as may worthily render us serviceable, and answerable to the trust reposed in us: which especially adds the interest of being

*Reading 6. A-  
pril. 1645.*

Sir,

Your Honours most faithfull  
and obedient Servants,

*Martin Pyndar.*

*H. Leighton.*

*Tho. Herbert.*

*Jo. Potter.*



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